GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
ANNAPURNA SCHEME
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RASA SINGH RAWAT;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Annapurna Scheme for the benefit of old persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been facing difficulties in implementing the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Governments to include physically and mentally disabled in the Scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir . The Annapurna Scheme has been launched w.e.f. 1st April, 2000 to provide free foodgrains to those old destitutes who though eligible for old age pensions under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), are currently not receiving the same. 10 Kgs of foodgrains per month are provided free of cost to each of the beneficiaries under the Scheme . The funds under Annapurna Scheme are released to the State Governments for onward transfer to the Food & Civil Supplies Departments of the concerned States.

(c)& (d): In case of few States, difficulty has been observed in transferring the funds to the implementing Departments causing delay or lack of off-take of foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India. The State of Haryana has stated that as the State Government`s old age pensioners are getting Rs. 200/- per month, no person would like to receive the benefit under the Annapurna Scheme. The State of Tamil Nadu has expressed difficulty in implementing the Scheme in the way envisaged by the Govt. of India, in view of the several broad - based pension schemes in existence in the State, with more substantial financial commitment. The State of Madhya Pradesh has reported lack of prospective beneficiaries, as all the destitutes above the age of 60 years are getting Rs. 150/- as old age pension. The State also finds the assistance of 10 Kgs of foodgrains inadequate. The Maharashtra Government has suggested that the benefit under Annapurna Scheme, may! be extended to the beneficiaries under National or State Old Age Pension Scheme. The Government of Tripura has suggested increase in the quantum of rice to 15 Kgs. per month, and in the number of beneficiaries, as also to include a provision for some financial assistance to beneficiaries.

(e): No, Sir.

(f) & (g): Does not arise.